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United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400
Date: August 3, 2005

Mr. Scott Aker
USDA Arboretum
24th and R Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Scott:

On June 8, 2005, I conducted an aerial survey for gypsy moth-caused tree defoliation at the USDA Arboretum. Approximately .5 of an acre of moderate defoliation (31-60 percent) was detected at your site (Figure 1). Ground-truthing of defoliation on nearby US Park Service sites revealed no evidence of gypsy moths. It is likely that fall cankerworm, *Alsophila pometaria*, was the cause of defoliation at the National Arboretum.

However, if you anticipate requesting either financial or technical assistance for gypsy moth control in 2006, please contact Brad Onken (304) 285-1546 or me (304) 285-1555 before August 31, 2005.

Please contact me at the above number if you have any questions regarding the aerial surveys or aerial survey letter.

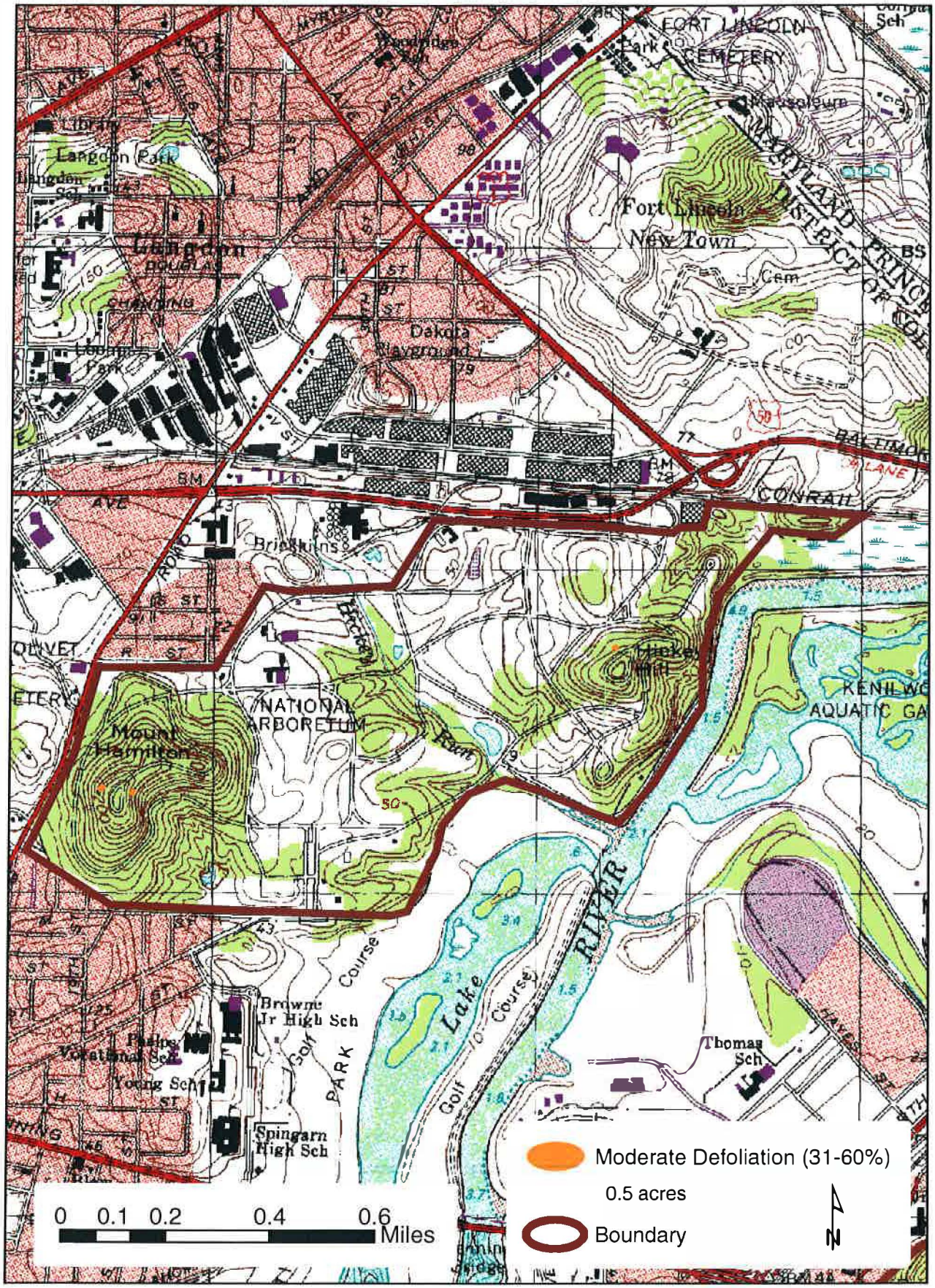
Sincerely,

Rodney L. Whiteman

RODNEY L. WHITEMAN
Forester
Forest Health Protection

Cc: Ainsley Caldwell, DC Forester
Noel Schneeberger, AO

Figure 1. -- Results of the aerial detection survey conducted at the National Arboretum, June 8, 2005



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